

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd July 1898.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000	25th June and 2nd July 1898.	
2	"Basunati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	23rd and 30th June 1898.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800	28th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	24th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600		
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000		
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	25th ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	27th ditto.	
9	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto ...	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto ...	1,000	25th to 29th June 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	23rd to 25th, 27th and 28th June 1898.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	200	24th, 25th, and 27th to 30th June 1898.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	2,000		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	27th June 1898.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	.....	21st to 25th and 27th June 1898.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	500		
2	"Mefta-hur-safar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto ...	320	23rd June, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi"	Ditto ...	330	24th ditto.	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	29th June, 1898.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	23rd June, 1898.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	21st ditto.	
3	"Chinsura Bartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	26th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	24th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655	22nd June, 1898.	
2	"Pratiker" ...	Ditto ...	608	24th ditto.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	4th May 1898	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	309	4th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	400	30th April 1898.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	About 600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000		
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500	24th June, 1898.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400		
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	22nd June, 1898.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	.....	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	.....		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur	755		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	20th and 27th June, 1898.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	26th June 1898.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	.....	24th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	About 500	21st ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	27th June, 1898.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong	.....	23rd June, 1898.	
2	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto	120	22nd ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet	.....	13th June 1898.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar	340		





## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 20th June complains of the presence of gamblers in Kahetgram, Kumaruli, Masuli, Suria and Sutia bazar in the Mymensingh district, who clean out the simple villagers and reduce them to poverty.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 20th, 1898.

2. The same paper has the following:—

Crime in the Kishorganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

On the 1st June there was a serious riot at Boulai, within the Kishorganj Municipality, in which two men were killed and five wounded, almost under the eyes of the Deputy Magistrate and the police. It was the result of a dispute between two zamindars of the village, one of whom was charged only in 1896 with looting a village.

CHARU MIHIR.

The local police have become so very weak and inefficient that recently when they went to arrest a Muhammadan charged with abduction, they were attacked and driven away by the Musalmans. The result is anarchy in the subdivision.

The offence of outraging female modesty has grown in the subdivision. Several Muhammadans brutally outraged a helpless woman of the Sannyasi sect somewhere near Bajitpur. The Deputy Magistrate who tried the case, but did not commit it to the Sessions, sentenced only one of the accused to nine months' imprisonment. That man appealed to the Sessions Judge who, surprised at the proceedings of the Deputy Magistrate, ordered the committal of all the accused. One of the prisoners was sentenced to seven years' and another to three years' rigorous imprisonment. In another case, a woman named Indra Namasudrani charged two men, before the same Deputy Magistrate, with rape. The Maulvi having dismissed the case, the Sessions Judge was moved, and he not only censured the Deputy Magistrate as devoid of a sense of responsibility, but ordered the case to be tried by an Honorary Magistrate with second class powers. The latter framed a charge against the accused, but acquitted them on the ground that, though there could be no doubt about the truth of the offence, yet the application had been made after a long lapse of time and the outraged woman could not possibly have recognised the accused at night. The unfortunate woman is now an outcaste, more dead than alive.

3. Babu Banwari Lal Ghosh writes in the *Hitavadi* of the 24th June that on the 7th May last he accompanied a marriage procession to Serampore on the occasion of his son's

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

The Serampore Police. marriage. About 8 or 9 P.M., as the marriage procession with music was proceeding, the head constable of the local police station came out with some constables and tried to stop the procession. They did not desist even when they were told that the procession had a pass, and tried to extort money. This unlawful interference on the part of the police was most likely to cause a breach of the peace. But for the timely appearance of the bride's party things would have taken a serious turn. The Serampore public usually suffer from police oppression.

4. The *Sanjay* of the 24th June says that it is a long way from Gopalganj to Madaripur, and that the authorities will do well to order the police cases sent up from the Gopalganj thana to the Madaripur Court, which are triable by a second class Magistrate, to be sent for trial by the Bench Magistrates of Gopalganj.

SANJAY,  
June 24th, 1898.

5. With reference to a report, in a previous issue, about *budmashes* infesting the village of Sekharnagar in the Dacca district, the *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th June says that, in pursuance of that report, a police enquiry was held a few days ago in the village in question. As matters stand, the case of these *budmashes* is now in no danger of being lightly passed over. Whether the order for an enquiry has come from the Bengal Government, or whether the Inspector-General of Police has taken up the matter of his own accord, Government, from Her Majesty down to the meanest *daroga*, will win the heartfelt gratitude

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 26th, 1898.



of the village people, if, on a regular enquiry, it sees this crying grievance of theirs removed.

In connection with the enquiry which is going on, the authorities will do well to enquire, why, after these two years, the *lathials* of Singerdek are again perforce crossing the river to this village. Is it not strange that the principle of 'might is right' should still have its application in Her Majesty's dominions?

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 21st, 1898.

6. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st June has the following:—

A scheme for the improvement  
of the Indian judiciary.

It is frequently found in newspaper reports that the Civil as well as the Criminal Bench in the mufassal pays very little attention to the law, and naturally enough commits serious mistakes and does injustice. Of the inferior magistracy, the Deputy Magistrates are said to be the greatest offenders in this respect, but we do not believe that they act against the law willingly and with the object of harassing people. The Munsifs and the Subordinate Judges were so long free from the reproach of injustice, but it is now talked about that even they nowadays ignore the law and administer justice in their own way and according to their sweet will. Whatever may be said of the Criminal Bench, the charge against the Civil Bench is certainly unfounded. But this is true that Munsifs and Sub-Judges are literally overworked and overburdened, and it is impossible for them to administer justice with a cool head. This being the case, it is quite probable that they do not always act strictly according to the law.

It is a matter for consideration why the Civil and the Criminal Benches of the mufassal do not and cannot always act strictly according to the law. Some say that the only remedy against the evil complained of is to appoint efficient men to the bench. Let us say in reply that the bane of the bench is not its inefficiency. The Government does not appoint inefficient and unworthy men to the bench, and the system by which judicial officers are recruited is the best under the circumstances of the country. There are people who say that the judicial officers do injustice wilfully and with the object of parading their power and importance. This assertion, as we have already said, is wholly unreasonable and unfounded.

The causes of miscarriage of justice lie in a different direction. Laws have multiplied and are every year multiplying. Every day sees new precedents, new rulings. It is highly necessary for the judicial officers to keep themselves well posted in the alterations that are made in the laws and thoroughly acquainted with new rulings and precedents. Unfortunately, however, few judicial officers study new laws and rulings. Hard-worked as they are, it is next to impossible that they will go through heaps of laws and rulings. It therefore often happens that in many cases wily pleaders take advantage of the ignorance of the bench and cite rulings and precedents already overruled, and in this way achieve their object. The consequence of this is the multiplication of appeals which means additional cost and trouble to suitors. In many cases it also happens that a judicial officer acts under an impression derived from a reading of the old law and arrives at a decision unwarranted by the new law of which he is ignorant. We speak from personal experience when we say that there are judicial officers who wilfully ignore precedents and it is useless to quote precedents in their courts. They say that every precedent has two sides and that precedents are too numerous to be read. The fact is that the judicial officers know that their ignorance of law and precedent will not deprive them of their posts or interfere with their promotion. They do not, therefore, care to read new laws and rulings.

How is this evil to be remedied? In the first place, the number of judicial officers should be increased. The increase that has taken place in the amount of the country's judicial work has made this very necessary. The Government has been again and again prayed to bring about this desirable reform, but in vain. Even the High Court has failed to move it, but there is no doubt that this reform can no longer be deferred.

In the next place, judicial officers should be required to pass departmental examinations every five or six years, and upon their success in these examinations should depend their promotion. If this is done, the judicial officers will



be induced or rather obliged to keep themselves abreast of new laws and rulings and people will learn to depend upon them. We do not know how far our suggestion is likely to be carried out and whether it is at all likely to be carried out as regards the Civilians. But whether the Civilians are made amenable to departmental examinations or not, it has become urgently necessary to subject the Deputy Magistrates, Munsifs and Sub-Judges to a periodical departmental test in the same way as Assistant Surgeons are made to appear in a departmental examination every seven years. The absence of such a departmental examination in the judicial service is the cause of a very great evil. In England, as judicial officers grow old their legal knowledge increases. In India, the case is the reverse.

7. The *Sansodhini* of the 22nd June contains a letter contradicting an article in the *Jyoti* of the 16th June (Report on Native Papers for the week ending 25th June, paragraph 9) condemning the Sarishtadar of the District Judge of Chittagong.

SANSODHINI,  
June 22nd, 1898.

8. The *Sanjay* of the 24th June reports that Mr. K. C. De, Collector of the Faridpur district, has made excellent arrangements facilitating the deposit of arrears of revenue. He receives deposits at any time of the day and brought in by anybody. His object probably is, and it is surely a great object, to prevent any estate from being sold or transferred, by reason of any technical fault in the payment of the revenue. Mr. De's earnest endeavours to win the good opinion of the people in the administration of justice have justly made him very popular in this district. The moderation with which he sought to allay the popular fear respecting the plague and the plague measures is not often met with in officers of wider or longer experience. The Faridpur people are happy under him and pray to Sir John Woodburn to keep him in charge of the district for some time more.

SANJAY,  
June 24th, 1898.

9. The same paper complains that of the Bench Magistrates of Gopalganj in the Faridpur district, one is a mukhtar practising in the Narail Court in the Jessore district, and the other two belonging to the Christian community have frequently to go abroad. It is prayed that the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur and the District Magistrate of Faridpur will increase the number of Bench Magistrates for Gopalganj.

SANJAY.

The following names mentioned are those of men fit to be Bench Magistrates :—

1. Babu Pramathanath Chaudhuri of Kajulia.
2. „ Gatilal Chakravarti of Bhojergati.
3. „ Dijendranath Ray Chaudhuri of Ulpur.
4. „ Durga Charan Sen of Kajulia.
5. „ Giris Chandra Sen, Sub-Registrar, Gopalganj.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th June thus comments on the case in which a European soldier has been sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment by the Presidency Magistrate of Bombay for outraging the modesty of a Hindu lady under the excuse of examining her in the course of plague inspection :—

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

We beg to draw the attention to this case of those who treated the allegations regarding oppression by European soldiers in connection with plague inspection as wholly unfounded and the alleged outrages on female modesty committed by them under the excuse of searching for plague cases as quite impossible; who took the native papers of the Bombay Presidency to task for making such complaints, and whose hearts melted, so to speak, to hear Lord Sandhurst's eulogy on the conduct of the European soldiers. Could such an incident take place in any other part in the world? If the incident had led to ghastly murder and made blood flow in torrents, the whole blame would have been laid at the door of the Indian people, and Anglo-Indian critics would have made profuse comments upon Indian loyalty, Indian education and Indian



instincts. It would have no doubt been said that the soldiers were wholly blameless; they had been out on plague inspection and had been assaulted by the ignorant mob; or that the assaulted soldiers had killed their assailants in self-defence. Fortunately, however, the large-hearted Anglo-Indian critic has got no such opportunity in this case.

It has been quite wrong to inflict such a trifling punishment on the accused for so serious an offence. The Magistrate would not certainly have considered the punishment at all adequate if the accused had been charged with examining the groins or armpits of his own wife or sister. To tell the truth, the punishment in the case has disappointed us.

It is a pity that there is no one to feel how inadequate the punishment is, considering the seriousness of the offence. The Anglo-Indian papers have not even observed common courtesy in noticing the case. The *Statesman* has not hesitated to refer to the injured lady as a "woman." It cannot be said that the writer does not know the difference in the meaning of these two English words. He has been born in a respectable family and has been brought up as a gentleman. We never expected him to conduct himself in this way. The *Indian Daily News*, another Anglo-Indian paper has referred to the case in four lines as a case in which a European soldier has been punished for insulting a woman. The *Englishman* has not noticed the case at all.

Why should not such occurrences as these create alarm in the public mind? When such an incident as this is possible under British rule, one cannot blame the public if they believe in all sorts of rumours, possible as well as impossible, and are thrown into a panic.

Fortunately, however, plague inspection by European soldiers has been given up. Sir John Woodburn has saved us from this dreadful system of inspection and examination. But for His Honour's kindness we would have been in a sad plight. It is our rare good fortune that we have got such a veteran helmsman in this crisis to guide the vessel of State. We can suffer anything and everything, but flesh and blood cannot bear the sight of our ladies being insulted by fiendish soldiers. The Lieutenant-Governor has earned the gratitude of the public by saving them from this fearful calamity.

It is to be hoped that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this case and adequate punishment will be meted out to the offenders.

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

11. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the conduct of Mr. Fisher, District Magistrate of Burdwan. Some time ago, the District Magistrate issued a circular in which he ordered the suspension of the payment of salaries to the Burdwan road-cess clerks till they had prepared the annual return. The annual return was prepared, but when the clerks went to draw their salaries, they found to their astonishment, that they had been fined Rs. 6 or 7, the deduction being made from their salaries for May. Asked to reconsider his decision, Mr. Fisher said:—"I regret I am unable to reconsider my orders."

Here is an instance to show how Mr. Fisher is so irresolute that he cannot be depended upon. A post of muharrir lately fell vacant in his office. The vacancy was notified and applicants were requested to submit their applications up to 28th June. Before that date, however, Mr. Fisher appointed one Jamenali to the vacant post, but soon dismissed him on the receipt of applications from better candidates, and notified that applications for the post would be received up to the 1st July. Such vacillation on the part of a Magistrate is certainly bad.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 26th, 1898.

12. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th June protests against the delay that is often made by amins in completing their enquiries in suits for the recovery of mesne profits. Although these amins have to be paid for in advance, they do their work so slowly, that in many cases the judgment-debtor transfers his property or makes such other disposition of it as defeats the purposes of the suit. Additional amins should be employed if the delay which is made in the ascertainment of the mesne profits be owing to the inability of the courts to promptly take the amin's accounts.



## (d)—Education.

13. The *Jyoti* of the 23rd June complains that the roof of the Chittagong College Boarding-house was blown away in the late cyclone and has not yet been rebuilt. Babu Avinas, late Principal of the College, had this boarding-house established out of donations collected from local well-to-do people. The present Principal, however, neglects the boarding and has not been able in so many months to simply repair the house which his predecessor took so much care to build. The inmates of the boarding are in a sad plight. Fresh students are not coming in for want of a good boarding. Sufficient care is also not taken to have the college compound kept clean and well fenced. All this speaks ill of an educated man like the present Principal.

JYOTI,  
June 23rd, 1898.

14. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 23rd June has the following:—

Want of religious instruction in schools and colleges.

English education is rapidly becoming popular among the Musalmans of India. A good many of them have ventured to get their children admitted into English schools without teaching them Arabic and the tenets of Islam. As such students will have to form their character according to the teachings of their alien teachers and among strangers, there is all the more likelihood of their turning infidel. Not being able to read the history of the success of Islam and Muhammadan science and literature in the language in which they are written, they may lose their national character. To tell the truth, if the existing system of education be persisted in for a considerable length of time, India will become a Christian country. It is to save students from being demoralized that English Universities like those of Oxford and Cambridge have engaged men belonging to various ecclesiastical orders as teachers and professors. The learned Musalmans ought to take measures to remove the possible source of this mischief. Some religious books should be added to the curriculum of our schools and colleges.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
June 23rd, 1898.

15. The new session of the Calcutta Medical College, writes the *Hitavadi* of the 24th June, began on the 15th June, and lectures are already being delivered to the students of the first-year class. The results of the F. A. Examination, however, have not yet been out, and students intending to enter the Medical College are in a fix. It is said that the University authorities have written to the Principal of the Medical College, informing him that on a student applying for admission to the College, a communication should be made to the University authorities to ascertain whether he has passed the F. A. Examination. Strange to say, the University authorities have not thought it fit to acquaint the students with this decision. Who is to be held responsible for this remissness?

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

16. The same paper has a cartoon on the Calcutta University headed "The Kumbhakarna of the Kali Yug." A giant representing the Calcutta University lies stretched in deep slumber, and a number of school boys are trying their best to awaken him, but to no purpose. The letter-press runs as follows:—

HITAVADI.

"THE SLERP OF DEATH.

Where do we meet with this deep and senseless slumber?

Has Kumbhakarna taken his birth in this Kali Yug in the shape of the Calcutta University?

The results of the University examinations stowed away under the pillow,

Lies the giant exhausted and motionless.

The anxious students stand in groups around him,

And are making a great noise and pulling him,

But he lies, like a *yogi*, quite unconscious of what is going on in the outside world.

"Arise! Awake!"—is the cry heard all around, but to no purpose.

No movement, no speech, no change of posture.

The giant, strangely unconcerned, does not even open his eyes.

The students, their teachers and their guardians are calling him aloud.

But, strange to say, he is as deeply asleep as ever.



Has anybody seen the like of this in this world ?

But hark ! All of a sudden an invisible voice is heard proclaiming as follows:—

' You have not the power to disturb this deep slumber.

Your time, your money, your labour  
Are all in vain, are all labour thrown away.

The learned men of the University are all full of kindness.

They will do good to you all at one stroke.

It is kindness on their part that they condescend to be examiners  
And take fees and publish the results.

They are incarnations of kindness, as charitable as Karna.

The University employes also are full of kindness,

And kindly enough they draw their salaries every month.

They know that a slow fire makes a sweet malt,

And hence the delay in publishing the results of the examination,  
which is all for your good.

Why, then, run hither and thither in this way ?

The hall-mark of University education is indeed a thing of  
beauty.

The story of Kumbhakarna's sleep is as sweet as nectar.

Krittibas chants it and all pious men hear.

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

17. A correspondent of the same paper writes that in page 184, line 20 of

Sastri's History of India.

Sastri's History of India, it is stated that the Grand

Trunk Road was constructed by Ahalya Bai.

According to Marshman and Dutt, however, the road was constructed by Sher Shah. Marshman writes:—"He constructed a Grand Trunk Road from the banks of the Indus to the Bay of Bengal, through a distance of 2,000 miles" (Marshman's History of India—page 101, lines 11,12). Mr. Dutt writes in page 115, lines 4—7:—"Among the useful public works he executed, the Grand Trunk Road from Bengal to the North-West remains to this day a monument of his foresighted wisdom." Who is right ?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th June writes as follows:—

Babu Rajani Kanta Bhattacharyya, Assistant Assessor, Calcutta Municipality.

It is quite clear from the manner in which the employes of the Calcutta Municipality conduct themselves from time to time that it will go hard with the rate-payers if their powers are enhanced.

We have received a copy of the petition of the residents of the Hazra Road from which it appears that Babu Rajani Kanta Bhattacharyya, an Assistant Municipal Assessor, has encroached upon a plot of public land, has demanded an exorbitantly high price for his building, and is trying to change the original plan of a road sanctioned by the Municipal Commissioners. Now, if the price of the building be really so high, then it cannot but be that Rajani Babu, by paying low rates, has so long been cheating the Municipality of its dues, and if the price of the building be not so high, then Rajani Babu must be held guilty of an attempt to extort an unfairly high price from the Municipality.

Not long ago, Rajani Babu encroached upon a public road by the side of a tank with the view of building stables thereon. His neighbours objected, and it was proved that Rajani Babu had no title to the land in question. Rajani Babu promised to give up its possession, but has not yet done so. This is certainly very strange. Does this not reflect discredit on the Municipality ? Oppression and highhandedness there must be so long as the Municipal authorities fail to keep a strict watch over their subordinates who, taking advantage of their position, misuse their powers.

PRATIKAR,  
June 24th, 1898.

19. According to the *Pratihar* of the 24th June, the Municipal authorities

The collection system of the Berhampur Municipality.

of Berhampur will do well to pay the Tax-Collector a fixed salary and not a commission as at present.

Sufficient trial has been given to the system of payment by commission, and it has been found not to answer. The collections are not satisfactory ; and this explains the money difficulty of the municipality.



(h)—General.

20. Speaking of the refusal by the heads of the Health Department to permit the use of any other conveyance in place of the ambulance van, the *Basumati* of the 23rd

*BASUMATI*,  
June 23rd, 1898.

The ambulance van question.  
June says:—

The Health Department *sahebs* have gone the length of declaring that people no longer view the ambulance van with fear, and that patients now step into it cheerfully and of their own accord. The officers who have charge of ambulance vans must realise for themselves the truth of this declaration. They as well as everybody else know full well whether the van has now grown so very popular that patients are eager to enter into it, or whether, as a matter of fact, in every case of a patient's removal, a goodly police force has to be called into requisition? It is these *sahebs* who unwittingly increase the panic and provoke fresh riots. When will these alarmists be brought to a sense of the situation?

21. Speaking of the mischief done by anonymous communications sent to the Health Department, the same paper publishes the following letter from one Khagendra Nath Bhattacharyya, son of the late Kshetra Nath Bhattacharyya of Beniatola Street:—

*BASUMATI*.

Plague officers acting upon anonymous information.  
"On Saturday, the 18th June, at about 8 A.M., Babus Batakrishna Pal and Navadwip Set, two Vigilance Committee members, visited my house, No. 26-1, Beniatola Street, Ward No. 2, to enquire, as they had been informed, whether I had got the plague; but, on my representing to them that my brother and I were the sole occupants of the house, and that none of us had the plague, they went away, after which I went out on my business.

Half an hour after a plague *sahab* accompanied by two Bengali doctors, Babu Batakrishna, and a train of coolies with tubs and disinfecting substances, entered into my house and asked my brother, who was then at home, where I was. The *sahab* did not believe my brother's story, said that he was concealing me, but on searching the house at the instance of my brother, went away, meaning to call again at 3 P.M. In the meantime, I came home, heard of what had passed, and ran to the house of our doctor, Babu Kshetra Nath Sil and the member, Batakrishna Pal, who sent me, accompanied by Babu Jadunath Sen to the Beadon Street Ward office, where Jadu Babu represented my case to the Babu present, and left a letter, requesting the *sahab* not to visit my house again. I have had no disturbance since; but many of my neighbours have taken alarm, and some have fled the town.

The plague *sahab* visited and searched my house with his formidable train when I was away. Fancy what would have happened if my family had been here. I have since ascertained that the anonymous informant against me is one Priyanath Datta."

So runs the letter. But the secret of it ought to be known. People write such letters sometimes to satisfy some private grudge, but more often to have a joke at the Health Officer. But Dr. Cook will never understand this. This is perhaps the tenth case in which an anonymous letter has been acted on. In the present case, however, an unaccountable departure has been made from the rules promulgated by the Chairman after the case of Haridas of Taltala, that the plague-officers are not to visit on the strength of anonymous information, and that the Vigilance Committee should first enquire. It is reported by some that in this case, an ambulance van was waiting at the Kumartuli thana.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th June has the following:—

The plague scare—its continuance. The death-rate in Calcutta this year is by no means high compared with the death-rates of previous years. Even if it be true that plague has appeared in this city, it is quite clear that it is not contagious. This being the case, there is no need of inspection and segregation. Needless removal of plague cases to hospitals has increased the fear of the people and caused them great hardship, while it does not appear that the disease itself has done any harm. The disease is, therefore, not likely to spread if it is officially declared that there is no prevalence of plague in Calcutta. So long as the system of

*HITAVADI*,  
June 24th, 1898.



removing plague cases to hospitals will remain in force, rumours will not cease, and new terrors will continue to distract the public mind.

Not the ignorant lower classes alone, but the educated and the half-educated classes also are terror-stricken. The following circular of the Police Commissioner increased their panic:—

“COMMISSIONER’S ORDERS No. 170.

Until further orders the police will, as usual, remove all the cases of sudden death to the Morgue, and all sick persons will be removed by the police to hospital, except persons declared by the Health Department to be suffering from plague.

CALCUTTA,

The 15th June 1898.

A. H. JAMES,

Commissioner of Police.

This circular was misinterpreted by the public. They thought that by virtue of this circular all sick persons excepting those affected by plague would be removed to hospitals. This misinterpretation of the circular by half-educated people found a wide publicity, and we felt it quite impracticable to correctly explain the meaning of the circular individually to one and all. Hence we have been obliged to publish the circular in this paper. The intelligent reader will easily understand that in this circular the Police Commissioner orders the Police Inspectors that in their usual work of removing sick persons to hospitals they should carefully observe whether such persons are suffering from plague or not. If they are found to be suffering from plague, the police should not interfere, but should leave it to the plague authorities to deal with the cases. Otherwise the police will send the cases to hospitals. The people failed to correctly understand the circular, and hence the panic.

Be that as it may, is it not desirable to free the public mind from these scares and terrors? We are convinced that the panic will not cease so long as there is any chance of people being removed to hospitals. There is now no other means of allaying the panic if the authorities themselves do not come forward to allay it. The *Indo-European Correspondence*, the organ of the Roman Catholics of Calcutta writes as follows:—

“There is now a pretty general consensus of opinion in Calcutta that we have no epidemic plague amongst us; yet the plague party are constantly worrying our nerves with cases of *suspected* plague which are trotted off to the Manicktollah *Infernum* and trotted out in the official papers. The best native medical authorities who have spent a lifetime in treating such fever cases, declare that this bogey of a plague is a sham, which is bound to last only as long as the special funds affected to it will last. If it be only a question of spending that money honestly, why not spare our nerves, and rid our streets sooner of the dead rats and cats, which are sometimes left for a couple of days to rot in the open? We dare say such work would fall much better within the province of a Vigilance Committee, than that of plaguing us with a plague which no one is able to spot, and that of scaring away those most useful scavengers, the street-sweepers and *doms*, who are the best preservers of our health and lives. It is a fact which strikes us very forcibly that, in Bombay, exactly one day after the telegram by which the plague party were said to throw up the sponge and make the town over to the Municipal Commissioners, we received another telegram that the plague is stamped out and the seizures have suddenly fallen to 2! But then, it may be asked, has the plague made no victims in Calcutta? It has. For, several cases of glandular fever, a thing often treated here, preferred dying secretly in their rat holes rather than being treated as *suspected* plague patients. Again, several poor devils, when smitten with any fever that demanded prompt remedy, fled towards their own country and died of exposure on the road. Again several cases, when jogged and jolted in the ambulance car, died on the way from fright, or shortly after reaching the segregation shed from exhaustion. For all these deaths, not the plague but the plague party shall answer to God; for the misery of the poor cries up to heaven for vengeance.”



Our Catholic contemporary has, in the exuberance of his feeling, said a good deal and has no doubt reflected, in a large measure, the real feelings of not a few of the public. He should have, however, also said that most of us have appreciated the favour which the Government has shown us in connection with the prevention of plague. It cannot be said that none have correctly understood the object of the Government when we ourselves are inspecting and finding out plague cases. The public would not have been so much panic-stricken if plague patients alone had been removed to hospitals. The panic would not have reached such a pitch if, through the remissness of the plague officers, some of those suffering not from plague but from other diseases had not been removed to the plague hospital. We know that the Government is aware that the prevailing panic is a cause of untold misery and hardship to the public, and is trying to remedy the evil. We do not blame the Government, for we understand its motive. The Government, too, should make due allowance for our motive, our panic and our prejudices. If possible, it should even undergo some hardship if, by so doing, it can remove the cause of our anxiety. So we humbly pray the Government to do away with isolation and segregation, and thereby allay the prevailing panic.

23. There are, writes the same paper, 14 plague cases under treatment in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital. These cases have not been placed in a separate ward, but have been accommodated in a room in the cholera ward. The clothes of those who attend these cases are not disinfected, and the physicians treat other cases in the same clothes in which they treat the plague cases. The writer has come to learn all this by making a personal enquiry. If isolation, &c., are not necessary in the case of the authorities, why should they be so in the case of other people?

24. Western nations, writes the same paper, are often influenced by fads. Western doctors are now discovering microbes in all diseases, and an attempt is being made to destroy these microbes. In the west, however, the microbe-destroying medicines and processes are experimented upon cats and dogs, but in this country they are experimented upon the natives, who are regarded as no better than cats and dogs. Cholera inoculation, plague inoculation, in fact, inoculations of all sorts have been experimented upon the Indian people. Of plague serums there are three different kinds cultured by three different *savants*—Haffkine, Lustig and Simmonds. All these three classes of plague serums are being experimented upon the persons of the natives of India.

25. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th June has the following regarding the plague in Calcutta:—  
The progress of the plague. The plague still burns on in its dull smouldering way and will neither burst into a flame nor die out. If one day the plague cases suddenly rise to six, they again quickly become the usual one or two per day, the mortality being comparatively very insignificant for a town like Calcutta. On an average, only two seizures and one and-a-half deaths occur every day. During the two months that the plague has appeared in Calcutta, there have been, on the whole, 127 seizures and 97 deaths. One and-a-half deaths a day in a population of eight lakhs is like a drop taken out of an ocean. That is no plague which does not manage to score 200 victims a day. It is as if it has at present been engaged in child's play. Our immediate loss, however, is that the washerman and the cook and the servant have all left us. Take courage, ye mufassal men; the plague is almost non-existent here. Each to his occupation now. Let the shops be re-opened. Let us again behold the town as busy and lively as before.

26. Referring to an article in the *Indian Daily News*, which says that the plague measures have sown seeds of discontent far and wide, and that it is proposed to post armed police to watch railways, bridges and similar other places, the same paper remarks:—

Whence has our contemporary learned this? We suspect it is wholly false. We for ourselves do not see seeds of discontent anywhere. And the seeds have been scattered broadcast over the land, says our contemporary.

HITAVADI,  
June 24th, 1898.

HITAVADI.

BANGAVASI,  
June 25th, 1898.

BANGAVASI.



We do not know of any such thing, however. And there is the talk, too, of posting armed sepoy to guard the railways, &c. Our contemporary forgets that all this will but needlessly alarm the public.

BANGAVASI,  
June 25th, 1898.

27. Speaking of the circular recently issued by the Commander-in-Chief imposing severe penalties on English soldiers going out sporting with guns, &c., without passes, with a view to check the alarming increase of gunshot murders of natives committed by them, the same paper remarks:—

Oppression of natives by English soldiers.

It has to be pointed out that these English soldiers not only kill natives when out sporting, but also commit a good deal of oppression when out on a walk. They insult respectable people, give them slaps and pushes in pure sport, and not unoften rob them on the highway. Now and then, one hears of murders too coming out of this horse-play of night-prowling Tommy Atkins. People would have been more grateful if something had been done to check these oppressions. Not that they do not appreciate the beneficence of the circular just issued; they will, it is hoped, effectually check the evil they are directed against.

How comes it, however, that a law has had to be passed to hold only 70,000 English soldiers in check, while no such measures have been deemed necessary in the case of the 180,000 sepoy, the children of the soil? The reason is obvious. It is notorious that at the very sight of Tommy Atkins men and women fly in terror and betake themselves to the sanctuary of their homes.

BANGAVASI.

28. Referring to the case in Bombay in which two English soldiers stood charged with insulting the modesty of a woman named Devi Bai in the house of one Puroshottam, and in which one of them has just been sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment, the same paper says:—

Plague inspection by English soldiers.

The case created quite a consternation in the country. The excellent decision of the Magistrate, however, has satisfied the people and inspired them with a respect for British justice.

The case occurred in far Bombay, but it has given rise to considerable anxiety and agitation in Calcutta. The anxiety is that if ever the work of inspection here devolves on English soldiers, the Bombay horrors will be re-enacted. The general impression is that the English soldier is very often inordinately haughty, wild almost like a mad man. Government did not empower him to examine female plague-patients, and probably expressly prohibited him from so doing. But he easily overstepped his limits.

To the Bengali, a *gora* is as much a terror as a tiger. There may be good *goras*, but the conduct of a few has brought the whole tribe into discredit.

It is extremely re-assuring that Government has at last had its attention directed to this scandal of scandals and has set about removing it. It is fervently prayed, prayed to God and His earthly representative, our sovereign, that the calamity of a *gora* inspection may not be inflicted on Bengal.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 27th, 1898.

29. According to the *Dainik-o-Samachur Chandrika* of the 27th June, it is Dr. Cook who is increasing the panic in Calcutta, and who does not know how to work so as to satisfy the people. Government should not allow him to persist in his line of action. He says that none but Government plague doctors should diagnose a plague case, and that the opinion of Dr. Sanders or Dr. Charles should have no weight whatever as against them. Government wants to remove the doubts and fears of the people, but the action of Dr. Cook is increasing both. It is painful to think that the opinions of young, inexperienced European doctors should prevail over those of physicians like Dr. Sanders.

Dr. Cook on the plague.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.

30. Home segregation, says the same paper, is to be allowed, but there are few families which can easily secure it. A simple application for home segregation will not do; arrangements for such segregation must be made in an European style and at considerable expense. It is not enough to have separate rooms; there must be a separate staircase, different from the one which is used by the family in general. Thus, in most houses, arrangements for segregation can hardly be made to the satisfaction of the authorities.

Home segregation.



## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

31. The *Sansodhini* of the 22nd June says that the condition of the people of Chittagong must be most miserable, when a police enquiry reveals the fact of deaths from starvation in the Chittagong district. The writer asks if the Magistrate of the district was not aware of this state of things. If he was not aware of this, the chaukidar and the police, who suppressed the information, should be prosecuted under Act V.

SANSODHINI,  
June 22nd, 1898.

32. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd June reports that the floods in the Kanshai and Kumari rivers have washed away a large number of villages on their banks and ruined the people who have now neither money nor food.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 23rd, 1898.

33. Speaking of the distress in Chittagong, the *Jyoti* of the 23rd June remarks that the sole hope of the district is now in Government, and, if Government be not graciously disposed towards it, it is a doomed district. The Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Manisty, appears to be lukewarm in this crisis. Some reason or other has alienated the great love he bore to and evinced for the district, when he was Collector. It is not known whether he has done or is doing anything to relieve the present distress, but this much is certain that he has come to have a hatred for Chittagong people. In a proceeding recorded by him on the subject of the appointment of *kanungos*, he wrote: "It is also very desirable to have among *kanungos* men not belonging by birth to this Division and specially to the Chittagong district." He is reported to have expressed himself somewhat similarly regarding the appointment of Deputy Collectors for Land Acquisition work. It is submitted that the Commissioner was at liberty to cashier any dishonest or incapable *kanungo* or Deputy Collector of Chittagong origin, if he came across such; but it is unjustifiable of him to cherish an indiscriminate hatred for Chittagong people in general. It is trusted that he will get the better of these illiberal sentiments and turn with a better feeling to the work of delivering Chittagong at this juncture.

JYOTI,  
June 23rd, 1898.

34. A correspondent of the same paper has the following regarding the distress in Chittagong:—

The officials in the Chittagong district.

"The local authorities lapped in the luxury of town-life cannot for a moment realise how fearful is the distress in the villages. Alas! how many are the miserable mothers, who in these incessant rains, have no other covering for their children than their own bare bodies, and who cannot keep the bodies of their children warm even with their life-blood! How many of them, unable to find food for their children curse the world in the bitterness of their soul!

JYOTI.

The local authorities, a single stroke of whose pen can decide the fate of 14 lakhs of people, and who are under the gravest obligation to God and to society to look to the weal and woe of the district, remain stolidly indifferent to the distracting sound of distress that surges round their ears. Do they never think, these solemn officials, who feed on the life-blood of the district, that they have yet an account to render at the solemn tribunal which awaits them all? Have they been sent on princely salaries simply to do their routine-work. Should not their whole soul be devoted to the advancement of the education and happiness of the country?

We ask in bitterness of these officials, have the doleful sights and sounds of the famine made ever so little an impression on their adamant hearts? Why this inhumane indifference? Over thirty thousand rupees are in deposit to combat the calamity; will the authorities still hesitate to expend the money? For this cruel indifference they shall have their judgment at the tribunal of God and of Humanity.

Even now, in the southern parts, numbers of homeless families are starving. We are prepared to furnish convincing evidence, if that is wanted. Assume, officials, the benign aspect you wore after the cyclone. Your serene indifference makes the blood in our veins curdle.

And are even our own countrymen roused? They are as indifferent as the authorities. Arise, countrymen; let us unite to think of the future of



Chittagong. Come ye who have been given to enjoy prosperity, you owe a special debt to your country, for by your country you have risen. Awake, too, members of the Chittagong Association, you have a duty to do by your country.

The number of the starving is every day increasing. A correspondent has sent a list of 165 families of 640 persons, from the village of Chechuria alone, under thana Banskali. Some of them have been fasting for two or three days, and some have had nothing but greens to eat for the last five or six days. The list has been submitted to the police."

Speaking of the results of the police investigation into the deaths from starvation, reported in this paper, in villages Bailchhari, &c., the writer observes as follows:—

"The chaukidar who conducted the investigation has not made any entry in his diary regarding the death of Thandamia, son of Aman Ali, of Katharia, who, with other villagers, have deposed that the child died of starvation. How to rectify this?

Regarding the other death, viz., of the daughter of Barkat Ali of Katharia, the chaukidar has made the entry, 'death from fever,' although the father said she died from ten days' starvation. We ask the authorities to enquire into this unwarranted conduct of the chaukidar.

We also ask, are the deaths from fever or cholera which the patients contracted by eating things never intended for human food, not to be entered as deaths from starvation? We have heard of many such deaths. But further proof of the existence of distress is, in our opinion, quite useless. We fervently pray that Government will yet be pleased to come to the rescue of Chittagong."

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 20th, 1898.

35. Referring to Mr. Brodie, Magistrate of the Godavery district, who gave up his own palanquin to his sick peon, the *Charu Mihir* of the 20th June observes that as a Civil servant, Mr. Brodie has entitled himself only to public respect, but he has conquered everybody's heart by this act of his. Manliness is a more glorious thing than the dignity of official position, and *bhakti* is a more powerful spring of action than fear.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 21st, 1898.

36. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st June has the following:—  
It is a century and a half since Englishmen and Indians entered into the relation of rulers and ruled. Indians are now reading English Literature, English History, English Science and English Mathematics, while the study of Indian Literature, Indian Science, Indian Philosophy and Indian History is on the decline. English dress, English food, English style, English speech and English manners and customs have become quite common among us; so much so that correspondence and conversation are carried on in English between farther and son, brother and brother, friend and friend, son-in-law and father-in-law, and, in a few cases, husband and wife. To tell the truth, the whole nation has become anglicised, and we have sacrificed our nationality, our religion, our manners and customs on the altar of English civilisation. We have Europeanised ourselves and have also Europeanised our wives and children. But what have we gained by all these sacrifices? Have we been able to gain the favour of our rulers—the favour which is calculated to do good to the subject people?

Our sovereign does not reside in our country. Her representatives, her servants and her own countrymen live and rule in India. Their favour is the same thing as royal favour. But have we been able to gain that favour? With the advance of time we are, so to speak, being cast out of the pale of their favour and kindness. Our smallest offence becomes magnified in their eyes. The disciples of Christ have, to our great misfortune, forgotten the lessons of forbearance taught by their Master. Could anything be more regrettable than this?



If, however, our fathers and grandfathers are to be believed, this was not the case fifty years ago. But the stories of the kindness, sympathy and generosity of the English officials of old now read like fairy tales. The English officials of old were true protectors of those who sought their shelter. They sincerely loved and trusted their native subordinates and were, so to speak, fathers unto them. In danger, the English master helped and sympathised with his native servant. But in how many instances do we now meet with that sympathy and kindness? We do not say that such instances are wholly wanting but it must be admitted that they have become very rare.

But why is this so? It is true, those Englishmen who conquered India and firmly established British rule in this country by means of sympathy and kindness have passed away; but their successors still sway the sceptre. Our fathers and grandfathers who served them and earned their favour have died, but we their children and children's children, still live. Why, then, do we not receive that sympathy and kindness at the hands of the English rulers of these days, which our ancestors used to receive at the hands of the English rulers of those? The fatalist would attribute this change to fickle fortune, but this explanation will not satisfy everybody.

To tell the truth, a change has come over the attitude of both Indians and Englishmen. The English rulers and the English officials have nowadays made it a point to keep aloof from us. They do not look upon us in a liberal spirit, and there is a tinge of scorn or contempt in their attitude towards us. They want to see in us a spirit of complete dependence. This they do not see, and they assume a hostile attitude. On the other hand, we who have read English and learnt English manners and customs have also changed our attitude towards Englishmen. Englishmen have taught us that all are equal in the eye of the law and the Government; that Englishmen and Indians are, as subjects of the same sovereign, on the same footing. English education and the English idea of liberty have turned our heads, and we often fail to properly conduct ourselves in relation to our rulers. With our English education, we look upon ourselves as equals of Englishmen, and we claim and sometimes gain the high posts in the public service occupied by Englishmen. We even go the length of strongly criticising the conduct of our English rulers and no longer pay them in full measure that respect and reverence which we used to pay them before. This conduct on our part is misconstrued into wilful impertinence by our rulers, and consequently the old amicable relations between rulers and ruled have become seriously strained. This state of things is not likely to do our rulers any harm, but is sure to seriously injure our own interests. It is time that we warned ourselves.

37. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th June has the following:—

Are the leaders of the country in the Congress?

Messrs. K. C. Banerji and S. N. Banerji and other leaders of the Congress or the Conference may occupy leading positions in that society to which the *Dacca Gazette* belongs, but has not the *Gazette* a single reader who can understand how Indian society has been insulted by calling, as the *Gazette* has called those men, its leaders, who have been ostracised from it. Are they really the leaders of the country? Do the 28 crores of people follow their leading? What a calumny upon the great men of the country! It is insulting to think that the Nawab of Dacca, the Maharaja of Tippera, the Raja of Bhawal and the Rajas and Maharajas of Mymensingh follow the lead of these insensate people! It cannot be that the *Dacca Gazette* does not know the meaning of the word "*Agrani*"; so it has intentionally calumniated the entire population of the country by calling these the leaders of the Indian society. The fate of the country depends on those foolish people who are doing immense harm to the country by trying to have the Cooly Emigration Act repealed! How many of those who exercise absolute headship in villages and rural areas have any sympathy with the Congress or Conference? Folly at every step and stupendous lying, and yet abuse us! We are blamed, because we discuss religious principles and expound the wisdom that lies in the stories of the Mahabharata. But has any one of those who are styled the leaders of the country the ability to do what we do? If those to whom people go for legal advice are to be arbiters of the country's fate, then the touters who often go to jail for conducting other people's cases must be taken to be the greatest men of the

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 26th, 1898.



country. In legal matters lawyers have to be consulted, in *yajnas* priests, and so on in other affairs of life. Thus everyone becomes a leader—what a conclusion this! It is needless to say that the majority of the few out of the millions that inhabit Bengal who attended the Dacca Conference, have no sympathy with it; we were present simply because we were invited; the four ladies who came on the third day did nothing the whole day besides knitting. Some came only to hear well-known orators, others to see a fight. The few scions of wealthy families who were present do not know English well. Almost the whole of the proceedings was conducted in that language, and so there could be no challenging of the resolutions which were proposed and carried. There is no objection to any talk about such things as the Chittagong cyclone. But when a Conference deals with really injurious and injudicious proposals, it is impossible to go with it.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 28th, 1898.

38. Referring to a report in the Bombay paper, the *Prabhat* that the Commissioner of Sindh sought to fasten sedition on the *Phoenix*, a Karachi paper, and that its proprietor could only escape by dismissing its editor, and to an article in the *Daily Chronicle* speaking of the new sedition law as not only superfluous but pernicious, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 28th June says:—

We shall be sorry if the report in the *Prabhat* turns out to be true. The *Daily Chronicle* is just in its remarks. Anglo-Indian papers of the stamp of the *Englishman* which are always for annoying our countrymen must have had their hearts and heads thoroughly vitiated. The *Englishman* is ever and anon wanting to catch its contemporaries in sedition. We have heard of a Bhattacharyya of Kalna who sought to excommunicate the whole community of his village. Any paper which differs from the *Englishman* must be in its opinion seditious. Not the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* alone, the *Indian Daily News*, the *Indo-European Correspondence* are all seditious, because, forsooth, they have the audacity to find fault with the plague measures and to doubt the existence of the disease in the town.

Sir Bradford Leslie, too, has found fault with inoculation and segregation, and ascribed the exodus from Calcutta to those measures. That is rank sedition, the *Englishman* would say, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie has already thrown out an indirect hint of that kind. Our brother, the *Patriot*, too, speaks in the same strain. Mr. Leslie had no right to speak of the plague! As if the entire right to speak of it belonged to the *Patriot* alone! The *Patriot* forgets that Mr. Leslie was once the Chief Engineer of the Calcutta Municipality; and that, as such he has every right, like his successor now in office, to offer his opinion on the sanitary measures adopted in the town. In point of fact, everybody has full right to speak about the plague and the plague measures.

We have not seen the seditious articles in question in the *Phoenix*. We do not, however, quite see how the editor should have been sought to be prosecuted for publishing a speech delivered in England.

Papers like the *Englishman* which increase the popular panic by their ill-advised cries of plague are punished by the law in other countries.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,  
April 30th, 1898.

39. The *Utkaldipika* of the 30th April suggests that the Government of India must not contribute anything towards the expenses of the ministration of religion to the Christian servants of Government, when the Hindu and Muhammadan servants can manage without it. An Imperial Government like the Government of India must not attend to the religious wants of one class of its servants at the expense of the general tax-payer.

UTKALDIPKA.

40. The same paper points out that Government is dealing unfairly with the zamindars of Orissa by asking them to pay the increased *jama* on the 28th April 1898, for the latter have hardly had time to collect the increased *jama* from their raiyats. The zamindars who were compelled to sign *kabuliyats* much against their will should be allowed some time to collect the increased rents from the raiyats. The obnoxious terms of the *kabuliyats* should also be revised.



41. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 4th May urges that the title of Raja should be conferred on Babu Nriparaj Sing Deb, the zamindar of Barpali in the Central Provinces, who has by his charity, goodness and loyalty endeared himself to the people of the Chatishgurrh Division of that province.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
May 4th, 1898.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

42. The *Paridarsak* of the 13th June says that so great is the water-scarcity in the interior of the Sylhet district that from an early hour in the morning people begin walking out a distance of two to three miles for a pot of water. Before this nobody ever thought of purchasing water from water-carriers, but in their present extremity the villagers are willing to pay for such water. Zananaladies who cannot appear in public in the day time, walk at night to distant ponds and rivers for bathing purposes. At places the people use the dirty water of shallow silted-up tanks, and fall victims to dysentery, etc.

PARIDARSAK,  
June 13th, 1898.

43. The same paper deplores the fact that in the face of a widespread water-scarcity, the Local Boards scarcely do anything to relieve the sufferings of the people. Every year quite a large sum is provided in the budget for the excavation or re-excavation of tanks. How this money is spent is known to the Board authorities alone. As a rule, while populous villages which suffer from water-scarcity every year get no allotment for water-supply, simply for want of representatives on the Local Boards, large ponds are excavated and wells sunk in small villages not afflicted with water-scarcity, at the instance of villagers who happen to be members of the Boards.

PARIDARSAK.

44. A Shillong correspondent of the same paper, writing about the attempt which many Bengalis make to obtain advantages, as domiciled Assamese, in the matter of preferment and appointment, observes that, if they succeed in their attempt, Government service in Assam will become hereditary in their families. Thus one son of Babu Durga Kumar Bose, Headmaster of the Sylhet Government school, has applied for permission to appear at the Pleadership Examination after passing the Entrance examination only, while another has, with his father's interest secured the second teachership of the Tezpur Government school and will probably succeed the latter. The people of Sylhet, though fit for the higher ranks of the public service do not get entrance into it, and the posts which should be theirs are obtained by these Bengalis.

PARIDARSAK.

45. Another correspondent of the same paper invites attention to the absence of such definite rules as exist in Bengal in relation to the competitive examination and nomination of Sub-Deputy Collectors. Out of a total of 23 Sub-Deputy Collectors, only six have been appointed by competitive examination in Assam since the year 1892, and the remaining 17 have been nominated. Again, candidates in Assam must secure 50 per cent. of the total marks in each subject to obtain a pass, while in Bengal the minimum pass marks are only 33 per cent. Examinations are held for filling up even two vacancies, but in such cases, only two candidates are passed in order to keep the room clear for nomination on the occurrence of later vacancies. Then, again, no candidate is allowed to appear at the examinations more than twice. So, although Assam has a system of competitive examinations, the Assamese have, say, only one chance in a hundred of getting any high appointment. Since the system of competitive examinations was introduced, only two examinations have taken place, the last in 1896. Two vacancies have thereafter been filled up by nomination. Government does not also bind itself to provide all the successful candidates with appointments. The rules for the Assam competitive examinations should be similar to those of Bengal, and should not press heavily on the Assamese youth.

PARIDARSAK.

46. Another correspondent writes to the same paper in English:—  
You are no doubt aware that a probationer for appointment as Sub-Deputy Collector is, from time to time, taken in each of the offices of the Secretary

PARIDARSAK.



to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, and of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts. The post of probationer is naturally looked upon as a post of some weight and importance, as it forms the stepping stone to the grades of Sub Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Commissioners. Ever since the creation of the post of probationer from the good old time of Mr. Luttman-Johnson, who was the then Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, probationers (with one honorable exception) have always been recruited from amongst the *bonâ fide* natives of the Province. But alas! how are we to console ourselves, when we find a departure from that well-established practice, during the *regime* of a popular and kind-hearted ruler like Mr. Cotton? The particular appointment that concerns us just at present is the appointment recently made in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam. Babu Prakash Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, a native of Uttarpa, Howrah, is the fortunate man on whom the choice has fallen: and who is this Ray Chawdhuri and what are his antecedents? He is no better than a plucked B.A. who was shipped off from his mother country to make a fortune or die of *Kalaazar* in Assam. He started life as a muharrir in a kaiya's shop and after learning how to cast accounts after the kaiya fashion, succeeded in getting a billet in a Railway office. Such are the qualifications, Mr. Editor, which have won the laurels, setting aside distinguished B. A.'s and M. A.'s who secured high marks in the examination for the appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

There are at present two doors of entering the Assam Subordinate Executive Service; *1stly*, by passing examinations, and *2ndly*, by being nominated as probationers. The first is practically closed to the natives of the Province, as the results of the last two examinations have shown that they cannot stand competition with the natives of Bengal, who generally win the prizes. If, therefore, the second door is also shut against them by nominating Bengalees as probationers, it is not known which way the poor natives of the Province should look to. I understand that in Bengal, the natives of Assam, cannot, under the rules, be nominated to the grades of Sub-Deputy Collectors and Deputy Magistrates; why then allow that privilege to the natives of Bengal, in Assam, which is admittedly a backward Province?

Now, Mr. Editor, this is the third probationer taken in the Director of Land Record's office, and let us compare his merits with those of the two previously appointed who are now shining as Sub-Deputy Collectors.

The first was a native of Sylhet, a B. A. with honours in English, who served for some time as a clerk in the office of the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, and for some years as the Head Clerk of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam. The second was a plucked B. A., a Muhammadan native of Assam Proper, who worked for several years as a clerk in a Deputy Commissioner's office. And the qualifications of the third have been stated above.

Mr. Editor, the rules for the appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Collectors provide that *cæteris paribus* preference will be given to the *bonâ fide* natives of the Province, but has not the rule been reversed in the case referred to above?

I presume the appointment has not yet received the approval of the Chief Commissioner to whom we appeal for justice. Surely such an act of *zulm* cannot go unnoticed by the Administration of Mr. Cotton through whose kindness and good wishes for the people of the Province, Mr. Majid has entered the Assam Commission, and Messrs. Uttam Chundra Das and Ahmed Ullah have been made Extra Assistant Collectors, and last though not the least, Ray Giris Chandra Ray Bahadur has been made a Raja.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 2nd July 1898.*